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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. 25X1A [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

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[redacted]

1. Nguyen Ngoc Vy is not a Communist and does not understand the meaning of Communism, but he likes to dabble in politics. He is head of the Viet Nam News Agency in Singapore and as such is a figurehead. Behind this figurehead there is a powerful but little-known figure--a Vietnamese Communist whose name is unknown and who is very active among the Malay proletariat.

25X1A [redacted] Comment: It was reported 25X1A [redacted] that behind the "figurehead" of General Nguyen Binh, Commander-in-Chief of Viet Minh troops in Cochinchina, one of the real, but inconspicuous powers is Ung Van Khiem, a returned student from Moscow.)

2. It now appears that Ung Van Khiem may be emerging into that exceptional class of Moscow-trained Communists in the Viet Minh who are such indispensable individuals that they cannot avoid a certain amount of prominence (e.g. Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap). Some evidence to support this is given in an article by Andrew Roth in the China Weekly Review for 28 February 1948, which contains the following statement:

> "Former journalist Ung Van Khiem is the Commissioner of the Interior (on the Viet Minh Executive Committee for Cochin China) and the only Communist on the Committee."

-6 As Khiem is forced to accept more prominence, his secret role will be fulfilled by someone else. Who it will be is unknown, but it is a safe guess that it will be another Moscow-trained man.

-6 3. It is estimated that between 1939 and 1945, at least 120 Vietnamese returned to Indochina after receiving training in Moscow. Of these, at least one hundred still survive. Of the survivors, at least thirty occupy important official and semi-official posts in the Viet Minh, and most of the remainder occupy secret posts in the Viet Minh.

3-6 4. In October 1945, Ho Chi Minh, in the course of a lecture which he was giving to one of the Can Bo (Cadre) schools, stated the following:

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"The minimum number of Cadres (Can Bo) required by the Russian Communist Party to conduct its activities is 200; the Chinese Communist Party gets along with sixty; we can get along with twenty."

25X1A [redacted] Comment: As it was already known at that time that the official and semi-official Can Bo were over twenty in number, and that there were many more in secret positions, the figure of one hundred for the total is not excessive.)

5. The flow of Vietnamese students from Indochina to Russia and back again, nearly always a clandestine activity, did not cease with the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in 1945. The prospectof obtaining this Moscow training remains one of the most coveted ambitions of young men in the Viet Minh. Those who return from Moscow usually receive powerful, though inconspicuous, positions.

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